



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office**

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One “Knights” paint brush mightier than the sword

PAINT

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16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST- Edward Bulwer-Lytton coined the phrase “the pen is mightier than the sword” in his 1839 play, “Richelieu.” That saying holds true for one 16th Sustainment Brigade “Knight.”

Spc. Erin Smith, graphics artist, command group, 16th Sustainment Brigade has been an artist for most of her life. She studied art at Rio Rancho High School, N.M., and was a member of the school’s Art Honors Society.

“I love creating art,” said Smith. “I like the self-expression and creativity.”

The 25 year-old from Rio Rancho, joined the Army three years ago as a multimedia illustrator, although her first year of service was spent in the brigade’s operations section.

“I mostly did clerk jobs and details,” said Smith. “The most artwork I did was binder covers.”

After a year in the operations section, Smith moved to her current job.

“Sergeant Major (Command Sergeant Major James E. Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sustainment Brigade) wanted some graphic artists to work in command group,” said Smith. “He wanted us to be drivers, secretaries and do artwork. But when he saw what I could do, I became mostly an artist.”

Smith helped design both the brigade’s patch, coin and knight logo. Her work can also be seen all over COB Q-West. She has painted the murals outside of the 16th SB headquarters building, the Soldiers Grab and Go, and inside the “Knight’s Feasting Hall.”

The Army will get to utilize Smiths talents for five more years as she plans to reenlist at the “Sustainer Strong” reenlistment ceremony in Balad, Nov. 11.

“I reenlisted to see what it is like to be in the Army back in the states,” said Smith. “I also needed more time to get my business established.”

Smith wants to start a business designing custom family keepsakes and graphics, but isn’t going to wait until she gets out.

“I would like to get it started as soon as possible,” said Smith. “It has always been a dream of mine to work for myself, but it’s a business that I hope to run while I’m still in the Army.”

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Spc. Erin Smith, graphics artist, command group, 16th Sustainment Brigade paints a mural for the outside of the “Knight’s Feasting Hall.” The Rio Ranch, N.M. native helped design both the brigade’s patch, coin and knight logo. Her work can also be seen all over COB Q-West. She has painted the murals outside of the 16th SB headquarters building, the Soldiers Grab and Go, and inside the “Knight’s Feasting Hall.”

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